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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SAM-01 OPIC-06 EB-07 /115 W
---------- 079570
R 091432Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3852
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUANDA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO, CG, BE
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL COUTINHO DENOUNCES FNLA,;SUPPORTS MPLA

REF: BRUSSELS 4045

1. INTERVIEW OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER, ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, ON ANGOLA IS REPORTED BY "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" IN MAY 7 ISSUE OF BELGIAN WEEKLY SPECIAL. INTERVIEW FOLLOWS BY ONLY FEW DAYS THAT CARRIED IN LE SOIR (REFTEL).

2. IN INTERVIEW COUTINHO IS QUOTED AS STATING FLATLY THAT HIS SENTIMENTS IN ANGOLA LIE WITH MPLA, WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE LIBERATION MOVEMENT MOST PROGRESSIVE AND MOST REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN APPROVING JOINT PLATFORM WITH ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATED THAT IT CONSIDERED ALL THREE TO BE REPRESENTATIVE. WHEN CORRESPONDENT POINTED OUT THAT OF THREE MOVEMENTS, ONLY MPLA HAD REPRESENTATIVE IN PORTUGAL, COUTINHO REPLIED THAT UNITA ALSO WOULD SOON HAVE "ANTENNA" THERE.

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3. ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA, COUTINHO

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INDICATED THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC WAR COULD BE AVOIDED, SINCE EXISTENCE OF THREE MOVEMENTS CONSTITUTES " FACTOR OF EQUILIBRIUM". HE OBSERVED ALSO THAT PORTUGAL COULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA UNTIL FEBRUARY 26, 1976.

4. ASKED HIS OPINION OF FNLA, COUTINHO IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: " IN MY OPINION, HOLDEN IS AN AGENT OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, WHICH FURNISHES HIM ARMS, MERCENARIES, AND MONEY. HE REPRESENTS NOT THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA BUT ONLY ONE TRIBE; THE FNLA BASES ITS STRENGTH ONLY ON BRUTE FORCE AND, MOREOVER, IS NOT REALLY IMPLANTED IN ANGOLA. WHY DOES HOLDEN REMAIN IN KINSHASA?" COUTINHO CONCLUDES THAT SOLUTION IN ANGOLA WOLD BE EASY IF COUNTRY WERE NOT SO RICH AND "INTERNATIONAL POWERS" DID NOT INTERFERE.

5. COMMENTING ON CABINDA, COUTINHO SAID ENCLAVE WOULD GAIN INDEPENDENCE AS PART OF ANGOLA, NOT AS SEPARATE STATE.

6. IN ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL COMMENT ON COUTINHO INTERVIEW, FRANCIS MONHEIM REPORTS THAT ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU RECENTLY ACCUSED COUTINHO OF BEING PARTISAN IN ANGOLAN AFFAIRS AND OF MISUNDERSTANDING AFRICAN REALITIES. MONHEIM PLACES COUTINHO AMONG THOSE WHO SEEK TO DECIDE DESTINY OF ANGOLA WITHOUT TAKING ACCOUNT OF DESIRES OF ANGOLANS THEMSELVES AND SAYS COUTINHO, LIKE MPLA LEADER NETO, IS "MAN OF THE SOVIETS". FIRESTONE

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